

BEHEMOTH

● Loch Ness: I have a number on clippings on Nessie, some general and some referring to sightings. The two sightings were sent in by Andreas Trottmann. On Sept 29, 92, The Inverness Courier reported that the thing had been sighted earlier in the months by members of a school party from Glenurquhart Primary between Abriachan and the Clansman Hotel. Teacher Rhona More: "It was about 12.15pm on Friday the 18th. We spotted perhaps four humps and had a clear view for a bit and could still see through some trees but then we lost sight of it." Later the same day, Ms More said, a coach party had also seen the monster. Pupil Sandra MacKenzie was among the five children to see the humps close to the shore. Two girls sitting in front of the bus claimed to have seen the head and neck of the creature above water. "At first I thought it was stones or something but because it was moving, I knew it was Nessie." On Sept 28, 92, according to the Inverness Courier of Oct. 2, Nessie was seen again, this time at the Clansman Hotel. Brian Alexander, kitchen porter at the Hotel who saw the thing for 20 minutes: "It was a dark object and looked sort of barrel shaped. I thought at first it might be a rowing boat but I soon ruled that out." Brian, 41, one of the other witnesses, who also saw the object about 300 yards from the south side of the Loch: "As it started moving slowly to the right I realised it was either Nessie or a large seal. I certainly wasn't a seal and definitely wasn't a boat". He thought it was 5 to 6 ft long. Both these sightings might refer to wave effects. On Oct 30, both the Rheinpfalz and the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung had dpa and AP reports on a sonar contact with Nessie. The British expedition from 24 universities managed to get a brief sonar contact with an unidentified object. British papers had reported on Oct 29, 92, that the 2-min contact had occurred on the screens of a Norwegian research vessel "Simrad". This may or may not be the same contact as described in Fortean Times 65, p.16. FT 66, p.62, has a review of a video on Nessie. The Lambert Wilson "I invented Nessie" hoax was also mentioned in Sign 21, p.10 and CENAP Report 199, p. 2. A very critical article on the Loch Ness Monster Exhibition at Drumadrochit and the exploitation of the Loch for tourism is in the Mannheimer Morgen Newspaper Oct 10, 92. Francois de Sarre has sent me a clip from Le Figaro Magazine Nr 14948, 12 Nov 92, p.47 on Expedition Urquhart which concludes there is no Nessie at all.

● Seljordsvatn, Norway: I had a brief report on this Norwegian Nessie in one of the last Bilks. The Seljordsvatn is 145 m deep and 180 km southwest of Oslo. The 30m-monster, called Selma, has been seen since 1650. The horse-headed creature has been seen several times in 1992, said Merit Vastal of the Tourist Information Telemark. There have so far been no films or videos of Selma. Seljord businessmen did visit Drumadrochit in Oct to see how they could profit from the Scottish exploitation of a monster for their own region. "If we get only 10% of the visitors who come to Loch Ness, there will be an end to unemployment in our region", explained Oddmund Gäskjenn, the mayor of Seljord. The Lake, however, is already a tourist resort, with camping facilities for 40 000 tourist. (Sonntag Aktuell, 25 Oct 92, p.27)

● Lake Michigan: Well, according to the Weekly World News of Nov 17, 92, pp. 1 & 4-5, the "U.S. NAVY CAPTURES MONSTER IN LAKE MICHIGAN". A very unconvincing doctored photo of two divers and a very reptilian/horror-movie-like giant snake in the water is on the tabloid's cover. The inside story tells the 140 monster was caught on Oct 22 by a secret Pentagon crew. The Navy had the thing on sonar, tracked it for 6 months, and finally caught it in "a massive steel net" in the northern basin. "The monster looks like a dinosaur but there are several important distinctions. For one thing, dinosaurs were exceedingly stupid but this lake monster apparently has an intelligence rivaling that of a dog or a horse. It also has lungs and gills, which enable it to breathe in or out of water at will. One of the more intriguing aspects of this case is why nobody has reported seeing the monster before", a -certainly non-existent- marine biologist Richard Clarke has declared. Secret documents show that the Navy once managed to track the monster on sonar for 72 hours before it surfaced three miles west of South Fox Island. Why didn't cryptozoologists never hear of these exiting discoveries? "The Pentagon is definitely trying to keep a lid on this. But a story of this magnitude can't be kept under wraps forever"!

● Bibliography: Patagonian monster of 1922, thought to be a surviving dinosaur, Inverness Courier, Oct 2, 1992. Dinosaur hunt in the Congo, Fortean Times, 65, p.11; The Hampstead Seal hoax, covered by Fort, now exposed by Paul Sieveking, FT 65, p.47.

ISIS

● Mermaid mummies and crocodile boys (with photos): Fortean Times 64, p. 33 and p.65, also Fortean Times 64, p.19

LEVIATHAN

- Florida's Giant penguin hoax exposed - Fortean Times 66, p.41
- Not all strange creatures in the sea are strange fish. The angling trip of a Croatian couple at Split, Croatia, had an unexpected end when they fished a wild boar. They had it for dinner. (Mannheimer Morgen 10 Oct., p.11)
- According to a report by Reuter in the Rheinpfalz, a whale has given birth to a child whose father was a dolphin. The director of the Enoshima Aquarium in Japan declared the "Whalephin" resembles its mother, but has the colour of the father. (Rheinpfalz, Oct 10, 92)

USO

- On the connection between UFO creatures and mermaids, see Strange 10, p.13. Also in Strange 10, p.34, the suggestion that the Loch Ness Monster is actually a submerged UFO! This theory was first voiced in the 1960s by German ufologist Anny Baghun - but there may be older versions.
- Bibliography: Ufos over the Lago de Cote, site of earlier USO encounters, see CENAP Report 199, p.12. Strange lights of the Cambrian coast, Wales, in 1830 - Fortean Times 66, p.44.

MARINE LIFE

● WHALES: In Oct, about 100 pilot whales stranded in New Zealand. Circa 50 died immediately, while helpers tried to drag them back into the sea. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Oct 28, p.12d) At the end of Nov, 26 pilot whales stranded in the NE of Tasmania. Animal protection helpers told the press that over the year 1992, a total of 254 whales had been killed in strandings in Tasmania. Biologist Hans Wapstra said the school of 26 whales had stranded 24 hours before their discovery. All 26 died, 7 had to be shot. (Berliner Morgenpost, Nov 26, p. 44) At the end of Dec, some 90 pilot whales stranded in New Zealand (RTL plus TV news, 1845 hours, Dec 28). I have noted in the past Bilks that whale strandings seem to concentrate on Tasmania, New Zealand, Perth in Australia, Oregon and Massachusetts. Still, no scientist has been able to discover why these usually intelligent animals kill themselves, often even refuse to be towed back to the sea again.

REST: ● Freshwater crocodile attacked and killed a British tourist at the Kakadu National Park, Northern Australia (Rheinpfalz, 28 Aug). ● Deformed marine animals like fish without fins and crabs without pincers were discovered by experts of Miami University off the south coast of Florida (Rheinpfalz, 4 July). On Oct 1, a 28-year-old surfer was killed by a shark off Brisbane, Australia. The 4 - 5 m fish, supposedly a Great White, toyed around with its victim for more than 15 minutes in front of the surfers' friends, as Reuters reports (Rheinpfalz, Oct 2.) The famous Austrian biologist Hans Hass, in his excellent study of shark behaviour, has pointed out more sharks are killed by humans than vice versa. Also, some criminal deeds are covered up as shark attacks. A 40-year-old Japanese who had killed his wife towed her body through the sea in a net for 30 minutes, hoping she'd be devoured by sharks. As the fish failed to play into his hands, he gave up (Mannheimer Morgen, Sept 25). A 4m alligator was caught in a trap on an airport at West Palm Beach, Florida. (Rheinpfalz, 26. Sept, AP)

CRYPTOZOLOGY

- Yeti news: Yeti in China may be monkey: Das Tier, Sept 92. Yeti observed in China: Esslinger Zeitung, Oct 10. A Russian expedition searching for the Caucasus almasi, led by veteran researcher Marie-Jeanne Koffmann, has returned in November. Ms Koffmann has, in years past, collected over 500 eyewitness reports. They could not catch one, but filmed footprints, and also recorded recent sightings (from Oct.) (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 1 Dec, p.11, Elf 99, RTL plus TV channel, 30 Nov)
- Alien Big Cat: After a long series of panther sightings in the Saar, Germany, this summer, on Nov 10, a witness reported having seen a tiger at Erding, near Munich. 6 police patrol cars gave chase and caught ... a pet puma on the loose! (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 12 Nov, p.12e)